

Message Text

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ACTION IO-11

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TAGS: IFAD, EFIN, EAID, OCON

SUBJECT: CANDIDATES FOR PRESIDENCY OF INTERNATIONAL FUND
FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

REF: STATE A-6821 DATED NOVEMBER 4, 1975

1. AT CLOSE OF OECD/DAC GROUP THURSDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 5, U.K. REPRESENTATIVE RAISED QUESTION OF CANDIDATES FOR POST OF PRESIDENT OF INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT. U.K. GOVERNMENT VIEWS ARE THAT REGIONAL-TURN IDEA SHOULD BE AVOIDED, IN FAVOR OF CRITERIA OF QUALIFICATIONS.

2. U.K. GOVERNMENT'S LIST OF CRITERIA STRESSED KNOWLEDGE OF DEVELOPMENT FINANCING, AND EXPERIENCE IN FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS, PREFERABLY INTERNATIONAL, AND INCLUDED GOOD HEALTH, IMPARTIALITY, AND PROBABLY LDC NATIONALITY.

3. U.K. SUGGESTION IS KIRSHNAMOORTHY (WHO HAS NOT BEEN SOUNDED OUT), NUMBER TWO IN ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK. (COMMENT: PROBABLY ON RECOMMENDATION OF U.K. REPRESENTATIVE LANDYMORE, WHO WAS WITH ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK, AND HAS BEEN CONSULTING CLOSELY WITH ITS OBSERVERS AT IFAD CONFERENCE SINCE BEFORE OPENING OF CONFERENCE.)

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4. U.S. AND NETHERLANDS COMMENTED THAT IMPORTANT CRITERIA OF

AGRICULTURAL BACKGROUND HAD BEEN OMITTED, AND U.K. REPRESENTATIVE AGREED IT SHOULD BE LISTED AMONG CRITERIA AND NOT MERELY TAKEN FOR GRANTED.

5. NETHERLANDS LISTED THREE OTHER CANDIDATES BEING TALKED ABOUT: (A) JUAN YRIART, FAO ASSISTANT DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT, WHO IS ATTENDING IFAD CONFERENCE AS PRINCIPAL FAO REPRESENTATIVE. FORMER URUGUAYAN AMBASSADOR TO UNITED STATES. (B) KENNETH KING, FAO ASSISTANT DIRECTOR GENERAL OF FORESTRY DEPARTMENT SINCE LATE 1974 (FORMERLY MINISTER OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF FORESTRY IN GUYANA). (C) ENRIQUE PENALOSA OF COLOMBIA, HEAD OF HABITAT (UN CONFERENCE ON HABITATION, WHICH IS TO MEET IN VANCOUVER IN MAY-JUNE).

6. U.S. COMMENTED THAT U.K. IDEA OF STRESSING CRITERIA WAS GOOD APPROACH, AND THAT POLITICKING IN SUPPORT OF UNQUALIFIED CANDIDATE SHOULD BE OPPOSED.

7. COMMENT: USDEL BELIEVES THAT IT IS IMPORTANT FOR USG TO BEGIN EARLY TO CONSIDER SERIOUSLY POSSIBLE CANDIDATES FOR THE POST OF PRESIDENT OF IFAD AND DEVELOP GOVERNMENTAL POSITION (PER REF AIRGRAM). THERE IS DANGER THAT SECRETARIES OF FAO AND/OR WFC OR SOME PARTICULAR BANK OR RECIPIENT WILL ATTEMPT TO CAPTURE IFAD THROUGH DOMINATING THE INTERIM SECRETARIAT THAT WILL BE ESTABLISHED TO SERVICE THE IFAD PREPARATORY COMMISSION. VOLPE

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